

NETHERLANDS WILL HAVE TO BE FORCED BEFORE ENTERING GREAT STRUGGLE IN EUROPE

Holland Has Borne More Than a Stronger Nation Would Endure—Government Content With Making Protests—Country Now Has Most Efficient Military Body in History.

The Hague, Netherlands, Aug. 28.—The second anniversary of the mobilization of the Dutch army suggests a glance at the present position of Holland and the multifarious charges wrought by the great struggle still raging around her.

The country has borne much in the past two years which a stronger power would not have suffered, but it has been preserved from the miseries of war, and although vigilance is still the order of the day the Dutch nation now entertains a good hope of preserving peace to the end. That its position is still perilous, however, the latest Orange Book testifies, and it is recognized that the ultimate peace congress may itself bring dangers in its train. It is clear that nothing but a direct act of war, or action tending to force the nation from its strict policy of neutrality, will bring the Queen—her ministers to enter the struggle; in all other cases of restriction of Holland's rights and damage to her interests they are evidently prepared to content themselves with protests.

For Queen Wilhelmina and the royal house the whole period has been an exceedingly trying one. Her Majesty's mother, the popular Queen Emma, and her consort, Prince Henry of the Netherlands, are of German birth; and in other ways, not overlooking the close ties with Belgium, the deepest personal feelings of the House of Orange have been painfully affected by the events of the past two years. Nevertheless, an attitude of the strictest correctness has been adhered to throughout. Her Majesty has closely devoted herself to the responsible work of State. She has frequently founded the country on military inspections, at which ceremonies she is often mounted on horseback. She has, moreover, taken the initiative in relief work, has paid many visits to various institutions engaged in work in the interests of soldiers or people, has headed war loans and relief funds, has visited and consoled the victims of the floods, and has daily gone in and out quietly and unostentatiously among her people. The Queen is frequently to be seen as early as 3:45 in the morning walking down through the streets of the Hague from the House in the Wood to the Palace, returning the respectful salutations of her subjects and occasionally responding to the stiff military salutes of passing officers. A day of her suite is usually with her on such occasions, while one single attendant talks some distance behind. The Queen Mother has lived in greater retirement, and the Prince has devoted much of his attention to the Red Cross organization.

So far Holland has borne the heavy burdens laid upon her by the war reasonably well, and the maintenance of a war footing and other extraordinary expenditures has so far cost a round sum of 7,180,000,000, which money has been temporarily found by two big loans and is soon to be tackled in earnest by the raising of national war bonds and a tax on war profits, which are expected to yield a minimum of \$60,000,000.

The economic trouble between the Allies and the Central Powers is still considerably embarrassing the country, while the food problem, partly growing out of her exports to Germany, has brought ministers no end of trouble and may land them in serious difficulties, for once started on the road of artificial regulations, maximum prices, cheap government foodstuffs, export controls and the like, trade and more complicated adaptations are constantly called for.

The two years' mobilization has given Holland by far the largest and best-equipped army she has ever possessed. For limited conscription has been extended into what is in effect universal conscription, serving up to 30 years of age, and training of front troops has been going on continuously ever since August, 1914, bringing the number of trained men in the country (though only partly under arms) up to between 400,000 and 500,000. While a large proportion of the younger men have been with the colors for the entire two years, the relief of the older men has improved the spirit in the army, and nothing is heard now of the agitation and disorders which the seething discontent at one time brought about. The Socialists in Parliament are professing in favor of partial demobilization, but it may be doubted whether they would have moved their motion in the Chamber to this effect a few days ago if they had not known it would be defeated, for the continued extreme danger of the country's position is as well known to them as to the responsible ministry.

The relations between officers and men is not so good as could be desired. In Holland such a class tie as that of sport has hitherto largely been lacking. Fortunately, sport in the army has received encouragement from the highest quarters during these long months of mobilization. The Queen and the Commander-in-Chief were present in person at the Army and Navy sports at Amsterdam a few days ago, while a special bureau for the encouragement of sport has been set up under the direction of General Kleykens and many "sport leaders" are being appointed. Seventy eleven took part in the football competitions in the fortress of Amsterdam alone last season, while competitive marches and the like are not infrequent. Furlough is granted on a generous scale to help men to keep their business going.

Coming to the Dutch Press, one or two of the leading journals do not hide their pro-Allied or pro-German sympathies. In their role of judge of all the belligerents, Dutch editorial writers occasionally evoke an ironical smile. The nature of the comments on the position and prospects of the theatres of war has undoubtedly changed since earlier days, when the might of the German legions dazzled the eyes of Dutch military correspondents and the idea of Britain ever forming new armies in time to constitute a serious factor was often counted as impracticable.

If pro-German sympathies are en-

tertained among a section of the higher classes, the great mass of the people is still strong in its support of the Allies. On the one hand, there is a leading newspaper delighting on every possible occasion in denouncing the "unscrupulous scoundrels of central Europe", and on the other, it would be difficult to find more bitter anti-British and anti-Allied sentiments than those breathed by the Dutch editors of the pro-German *Toekomst* ("The Future"). As a people the French certainly seem more popular than the British. The South African war still ranks in a good many minds. The most pro-German element in the political world is found among the church parties of the Right, the veteran ex-Premier, Dr. Abraham Kuyper, a great Calvinist stalwart, leading the van.

Outwardly Holland has not changed much, save for the numerous military element everywhere in evidence. The principal seaside resort, Scheveningen, is daily crowded with pleasure-seekers, including many Germans and Belgians. Places of amusement are well attended. Cricket and other sports are proceeding as usual. The sprinkling of Belgians in centers like The Hague has somewhat smartened up the dress of the fairer sex. Beneath the surface, however, the war is putting a great strain on people generally. The monopoly of so much labor by the army means far more work for large sections of the nation, while the food eaten is not of such good quality and is dearer. With large masses of the people it is a bitter struggle to make both ends meet. Some of the smaller conveniences of life, that used to come from Germany, especially rubber articles, are unobtainable. Some articles previously imported are, however, being now supplied by native industry.

Practically everywhere there is a shortage of housing accommodation, and particularly in those places where either Dutch workmen have returned from Germany or where they no longer cross the frontier to work. There is such a scarcity of houses in the northeastern province of Twente and in the few regions that comparatively well-to-do families are often obliged to live in miserable hovels and often even in temporary huts. The rise in the prices of building materials, particularly timber, has practically stopped the private building of workmen's dwellings. In the large cities people are crying out against the raising of rents.

In the economic realm the ramifications of the Netherlands Overseas Trust have extended very far. Its headquarters at The Hague now comprise thirty different departments, housed in some twenty-five buildings in all parts of the city. It will be recalled that the Trust is allowed by the Allies to import goods from overseas under guarantees that these shall be for home use only. It seems impossible, however, to put down the smuggling traffic on the frontiers, which has lately revived and is demoralizing big sections of the border population, despite the government's system of controlling goods in the frontier zone and the appointment of several thousand soldiers as paid customs officers. The fishing industry, which has been sending hundreds of thousands of tons of fish to Germany and Austria and making enormous profits, has now had the hand of the Allies laid heavily upon it.

As regards shipping, the arrivals at Rotterdam, Holland's chief port, have so far this year totaled only some 1,700 vessels of a tonnage of nearly 1,500,000, as compared with 5,000 vessels of 7,600,000 tons in the corresponding months of 1914. On the other hand, Holland's own merchant fleet is extremely active and prosperous in view of the shortage of cargo space, earning big dividends. The shipbuilding yards, too, are overcrowded with orders, and the clank of the hammers sounds for miles on miles along the Dutch waterways.

On the Stock Exchange there has been a remarkable revival of business since its reopening in February, 1915, and big rises in important classes of shares. Gold is still steadily streaming into the country, and the stocks of the yellow metal in the vaults of the Netherlands Bank now amount to \$222,000,000, which is two or three times their normal size. The farmers and market-gardeners of Holland have probably never experienced such prosperity as now, owing to the heights to which prices have soared, particularly across the eastern frontier; but the bulb industry is suffering from the import prohibitions issued by certain belligerents. Save in such exceptional cases as stevedores, there is very little unemployment, and the mobilization has led to women replacing men to some extent, as for instance in offices, brickworks, textile and other factories. Over a thousand more women and girls are now employed in the ready-made clothes factories of Amsterdam as a result of the big army orders for uniforms.

DIAMOND FLASHES

The melancholy days have come when pilots their pet allis bring: "We'd put the others on the bum if this, if that, if 'toter thing—"

Every major league manager has an alibi ready except Connie Mack. Mr. McGillicuddy calmly admits that he hasn't a more able than he has a ball club.

Log Angeles boasts that it will have a million population by 1920, but what's the use? It will still be a minor league town.

Jules Verne may have exaggerated when he spoke of 20,000 leagues under the sea, but, with this year's additions of wrecked leagues, there must now be pretty near that number.

It's all very well to give the victim of a bean ball two bases if he survives, but he crows what good would two bases be to his heirs? The poor widdy and the orphan child or the



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We have taken our Entire Stock in price up to \$2.25. Every one is this season's newest styles, making this the greatest sale of Men's Shirts ever offered in Bridgeport. Sizes 14 to 18.

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ANY SCARF IN THE HOUSE
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Formerly 50c, 65c, 75c, \$1.00
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Every good shade, pattern, and style is included in this lot at this price. You can well afford to "tie" up to a dozen or more.

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ANY SUIT IN THE HOUSE
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WOLFF'S



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500 Dez. Arrow Brand Soft Collars
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SIZES 13 1/2 TO 16 1/2.
Will be sold by the box only in their original packing. The quantity is limited to three dozen to a customer.

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aged parents of the deceased couldn't get much consolation out of any number of bases.

Answer to Freddie: Can't tell you the present whereabouts of Jim Blue-jacket. Haven't heard of him since day before yesterday.

That recruit pitcher named Couch broke in too late and with the wrong club for paragraphing purposes. He belonged to the old Naps.

Anyway, Connie Mack's juveniles

have managed to avoid contracting infantile paralysis.

A Brooklyn fan pulls a poem in five spasms in praise of Ollie O'Mara. Here's the concluding verselet:

"So let's take our hats off to Ollie, Who is trying his best to bring, That dear old rag, to Ebbets' Field, In praise of him we sing."

If mind reading ever becomes general it will put an end to baseball. If players were fined every time they thought of the umpire, they'd all be

in debt to the club at the end of the season.

Umpires object to band music at ball games because it grates on their sensitive hearing. Pity they don't see with their ears.

Roger Hornsby, one of the prize packages of 1916, is the product of a Texas farm and cost the Cardinals only \$900.

Rhody Wallace, who recently re-

turned to the Browns after serving a

sentence as an umpire, was born in '74 and broke into the majors in '94. That's the stuff, Fielder—get 'em young and train 'em.

Big league bonehunters are now busy looking 'em over in the minor fields. Trouble is that many a minor leaguer who looks like a minor leaguer in the minors looks like a minor leaguer when transported to the majors.

Jim Thorpe, the distinguished aborigine who is pasturing this year

with the Milwaukee Brewers, is pilfering bases with all the facility his ancestors displayed in lifting scalps.

Prof. Arthur F. Hofman, who recently joined the Yanks, had been for some time the chief of the faculty of a baseball school in Chicago.

Francisco Pazoll, one of the star fence busters of the coast League, is likely to get a chance in the majors next year. Francisco, by the way, is nobody but old Ping Bodie, who used to be with the White Sox.